



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crime Victims to Take Prison Tour on Tuesday, April 24

Event is Part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week

TOWSON, MD (April 19, 2007)---In an effort to educate and offer some healing for crime victims, the Division of Correction (DOC) will host its annual crime victims' prison tour on Tuesday, April 24 at 9 a.m. This year's tour, the seventh annual, will take place at the Baltimore Pre-Release Unit for Women on Calverton Road, just off West Franklin St. (U.S. 40) in West Baltimore.

Approximately 30 crime victims and victim advocates are expected to attend. The day will begin with brief remarks by DOC officials and conclude with a roundtable discussion led by victims. In-between, participants will take a complete tour of the facility, which houses approximately 128 women who are close to completing their sentences and returning to society. ***Media are welcome to attend, but must RSVP.***

Victims who have attended past prison tours have remarked that they have been very beneficial in allowing them to see that offenders are not "treated to a life of luxury" or "coddled." At the same time, victims are often gratified to know that the 98% of inmates who will one day be released are offered numerous programs and services designed to help them break their addictions and turn their lives around for a successful return to society.

The tour is part of a weeklong series of events designed to raise awareness of the need to continue working for victims' rights. The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is committed to victim services at every level.

What: Annual prison tour for victims and victim advocates
When: Tuesday, April 24 at 9 a.m.
Where: Baltimore Pre-Release Unit for Women, 301 N. Calverton Road, just off U.S. 40 West/Franklin St.
www.dpscs.state.md.us